

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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DRAFTED BY EA/J:DFSMITH:BCL
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COMMERCE - MR. TYVOLL (DRAFT)
COMMERCE - MR. TUTHILL (DRAFT)
----- 083718
R 151742Z AUG 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:BTRA, JA

SUBJECT:PROPOSED VISIT BY JAPANESE UTILITY INDUSTRY LEADERS

1. COMMERCE HAS SUPPLIED DEPT WITH EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO PROPOSED US VISIT OF DELEGATION INCLUDING PRESIDENTS OF 5 LARGE UTILITY COMPANIES TO BE LED BY FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER ZENTARO KOSAKA. OBJECT OF VISIT WOULD BE TO DISCUSS WITH LEADERSHIP OF US UTILITY INDUSTRY PROBLEMS RELATING TO ELECTRIC POWER, ENERGY SOURCES, FUEL CONSERVATION, FUTURE TECHNOLOGY, AND CAPITAL NEEDS. VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE OCTOBER 8-20, ENDING WITH (TENTATIVE) OCTOBER 20 MEETING WITH SECRETARY MORTON.

2. IDEA OF VISIT WAS FIRST BROACHED IN JUNE 11 CONVERSATION IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN KOSAKA, JAPANESE BUSINESSMAN GOH, JAPANESE EMBOFF(YOKOYAMA) SECRETARY MORTON AND DR. TUTHILL OF COMMERCE. GOH, PROMINENT LNG IMPORTER, WHO IS COORDINATOR OF DETAILS OF VISIT ON JAPANESE SIDE, REQUESTED COMMERCE IN AUGUST 4 LETTER TO ASSIGN TRIP ARRANGEMENTS TO PRIVATE US GROUP WHICH WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FIRING UP ITINERARY AND MAKING HOTEL RESERVATIONS.

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3.COMMERCEWOULD LIKE TO BE HELPFUL IF VISIT HAS PROMISE OF USEFULNESS FOR US UTILITIES. HOWEVER, JAPANESE EMBOFF HAS EXPRESSED MISGIVINGS OVER APPROACH TO TRIP TAKEN BY JAPANESE SPONSORS. NONE OF LETTERS FROM KOSAKA AND GOH PROVIDES NAMES OF UTILITY COMPANIES TO BE REPRESENTED OR COMPANY OFFICIALS TO BE INCLUDED IN PARTY. JAPANESE EMBASSY HAS ASKED TOKYO FOR FURTHER INFORMATION. JAPANESE EMBOFF HAS EXPRESSED DOUBT TO DEPTOFF THAT KOSAKA WILL BE ABLE TO LINE UP UTILITY PRESIDENTS TO MAKE TRIP IN VIEW OF FACT THAT MANY OF COMPANIES WHICH HE WOULD PROBABLY LIKE TO HAVE REPRESENTED ARE NOW EMBROILED IN OAK RIDGE URANIUM TAX CASE AND SENT HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES TO US AS RECENTLY AS JUNE.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY REPORT ANY INFORMATION IT MAY HAVE ON PROPOSED TRIP. EMBASSY MAY WISH MAKE LOW KEY INQUIRIES AT MFA, OR AT MITI, WHERE GOH REPORTEDLY WAS ONCE A SENIOR OFFICIAL. KISSINGER

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